

A

REVIEW

OF THE

STATE

OF THE

BRITISH NATION.

Saturday, February 26. 1709.

I Gave you a short Introduction to the Affair of General Naturalization in my last. It is a large Field, and it is difficult to contract a Subject so copious; My Design was to examine the Pretensions of those that are against this great and so advantageous a Proposal; but I cannot break off what I began in my last, without a short Pursuit of it in order to convince Mankind, that the Opening the Nations Doors to Foreigners has been the most direct and immediate Reason of our Wealth and Increase, and has brought us from a Nation of Slaves and meer Soldiers, to a rich, opulent, free, and a mighty People, *as it is this Day.*

I shall lead you back no farther, than to the Times of Henry VII. Take the Nation

in his Time, tho' great and rich, compar'd to what it was before—He found the Nobility powerful and able to bring Armies of their Tenants into the Field, arm'd and provided as well as the Prince, and to such he was beholden for his Conquest of that rich Tyrant. He found the poor Tenant in absolute Vassallage, who paid his Rent to his Lord ostentimes with the Blood of his Sons, and sometimes of himself, and held his Lands not by the Strength of his Purse, paying Rent to the Lord, but by the Strength of his Hands, fighting his Quarrels often against his Sovereign.

As to Trade, he found the Land productive of a vast Quantity of Wool, which was carry'd abroad from the ignorant and slothful English, *for in a Land of Bondage the People*

People are always so, to the diligent, laborious, because a free Nation, the *Flemings*: *Antwerp* was the Staple, there went our Wool, and the industrious *Flemings* working this Wool into all Sorts of Cloths, Stuffs, and Woollen Manufactures, cloath'd our *Nothing-doing* People with their own Wool, nay cloath'd the whole World, and made themselves immensely rich out of what we might have done ourselves, for we alone had the Materials.

And this by the way was the Rise of all the opulent Cities in that fruitful Country, and of the prodigious Numbers of the People, who flocking thither from all Parts of *Europe*, *France*, and *Germany*, merely for the Sake of the Manufacture, made the 17 Provinces the most populous Place the World ever saw, the Land of *Canaan* excepted.

No Body will pretend, this Country was productive of People more than other Parts of the World, or pleasanter to live in; on the contrary it was less habitable than any of the adjacent Countries, and in some Places not fit for People to live in at all, a meer Bog or a Fen, in daily Hazard of drowning, and under a thousand Inconveniences from the Sea, and the vast Inland Waters. This was the Case of *North-Holland*, *Zealand*, the *Pais de Waes Cadant*, the Country about *Rotterdam*, *Sluice*, *Ostend*, *Ghent*, &c. but it was the Plenty of Manufactures, the mighty Trade, the *English* Wool that brought the People thither, and this Flux of People encourag'd and gave Birth to all their other Improvements.

And this is farther observable in it, That the People there being wise and politic, and knowing that the Increase of People must at last be their Wealth and Strength, open'd their Doors to all Nations that would settle among them, gave them all the Naturalization Privileges and Corporation-Privileges they could; and this brought all Nations to them, for no Man can show another Reason, why that Country should be so full of People.

But to return to *England*, *Henry VII.* a Politick Prince, and thorowly acquainted, not with his own Country only, but with Foreign Parts also, having liv'd in a long

Banishment abroad, immediately found, that two Things were wanting to him to establish his Kingdom, and make him Great. 1. Trade for the Commons. 2. Reducing his Nobility.

To do the First, he encourag'd the making of Broad Cloth and other Manufactures at home; and this he did by inviting Foreigners to come and settle here, to whom he gave large Immunities and Privileges, and to some private Rewards; and thus the Wool began to stay at home, the People began to spin, and weave, and work, and the Consequence of this was, they got Money, and grew rich—At last, as Wealth increas'd, so did our Wit, and we came to prohibit the sending our Wool abroad at all, but instead of it, to make all the Manufactures at home that were formerly made abroad—And what was the Consequence of this? The Thing was plain, when the Wool could not come to the Manufacturers, the Manufacturers came to the Wool; when they (the *Flemings*) could not make the Goods at home for Want of Materials, they (the *English*) got all the Trade, and became the Clothiers of the World, and the Merchants of the World, as the *Flemings* were before.

Thus *England* grew first wise, then populous, then rich—Wisdom laid the Foundation, Trade was the Superstructure, Trade brought the People, and the People the Wealth—And this went growing on till Queen *Elizabeth's* Time—When the foolish *Spaniard*, blind to his own Interest, and not content with commanding one of the greatest People in the World, the *Dutch*, sends the Devil among them, I mean his Deputy the *D. d'Alva*, he falls foul upon both their Civil and Religious Liberty, brings the Inquisition upon one, and the Tenth Penny upon t'other, and so made his Master Great the shortest way; the united Provinces rebel, and after a War of 40 Years are dismembered from *Spain*, and all the Protestants of the other Provinces remove to them—And in the mean time Thousands of them flock over to *England*, especially the Manufacturing People, and that prudent Queen, knowing the Advantage of a populous Government, not only

only open'd the Doors to them, but gave them all possible Encouragements, made them Free of Corporations, settled them wherever they pleas'd, cherish'd and encourag'd them by all Ways imaginable; and what was the Consequence? With them came our Manufactures to Perfection, they brought over all the remaining Parts of it, they were our School-Masters in the several Parts of *England*, they created the Bay-Trade at *Corbeister*, the Sayes at *Ipswich*, now at *Sudbury*, the Stuffs at *Norwich*, and the Stockings all over *Norfolk*, they planted that Prodigy of a Clothing at *Leeds* and *Hallifax*, which now employs 300000 People in the *West Riding of York*.

O the Advantage! The mighty Service the Devil has done in the World, by that Glorious Thing call'd Persecution! How are we beholden to him in these Parts of the World? Queen *Elizabeth* entertain'd 200000 Foreigners, and where are they? They are all run to Seed, they were sown Foreigners, and they came up True-Born-Englishmen; and some of their Posterity are perhaps blind enough now to be Petitioners against this Bill.

But let us go on with the History; the next Step was from *France*, and there the Fury of the *Guises*, the Massacre of *Paris*, the Blessing of the Holy League carry'd on the depopulating Work; and what follow'd? Away ran the poor People into *England*, and still the Queen entertain'd all that came, the wisest Thing She ever did— And thus began the Settlement of the French at *Canterbury*, *Dover*, and all that Part, where Thousands of them have since dwindled away into *English* Men, and have learn'd since to fight against the Sons of those Fools that drove them from home, and help'd us to humble that invincible Monarch.

And now mark the Reverse of these Politicks; That Wise Queen having slept with her Fathers and Mothers, in comes King *James I.* that wise, learned, sober, just, cleanly Creature, and he following

the Policy and Vigour of his Predecessor, just as exactly as *Reboboam* did his Father *Solomon*, truly to make the Kingdom completely happy, he falls to that very Work that had ruin'd his Neighbours, and begins with Persecution— Away ran the poor Puritans, some to *France*, some to *Holland*, and to *New England* such Swarms, that the Council had it under Consideration, whether they should not stop them for Fear of depopulating the Kingdom, for Depopulation was always, till now, counted a Mischiefe.

No, says the Old King, let them go; and so he lost at least 60000 of his People, whereof 18000 went to *New England* in less than two Years; and had not he that employ'd him in that blessed Work, sent for him, to pay him his Wages, GOD knows, whether ten times that Number might not have fled. But his Successor King *Charles* was wiser, and the Troubles that follow'd put a Stop to the Flight.

But say some of the Opposers of this Bill, this will be to open the Sluces of your Trade, and to pull down the Defences of your priviledg'd Cities and Burroughs, and let in an Inundation of Foreigners, to eat the Bread out of the Mouths of our People.

Alas for our Corporation-Tyranny! These are Companies with exclusive Privileges with a Vengeance! What an outcry have we here against the *African* Company, because they seek an exclusive Trade, tho' 'tis evident, their Trade can never be carry'd on without it? Is not every Corporation an exclusive Company, and do they not exercise that Power in the most barbarous and unjustifiable Way in the World? Are they not all petty Tyrannies? And are not Thousands of poor industrious People starv'd or driven to great Extremeties for Want of Employ, only because they are not Freemen, when perhaps the Freeman is a Drone, and will not work? This is but a little of the excellent Advantages of Corporation-Tyranny, which I shall show at large in its Place.

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